

MAB 087
7 December 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Abidjan Bureau--November 1981

I. GENERAL

Early in November a small supermarket stocked exclusively with American food products opened in Abidjan. Fittingly named The American Food Store, the supermarket is located less than a mile from the bureau in Deux Plateaux. It is run by a Dutch couple with extensive experience in grocery supply operations in West Africa. The stock includes a wide range of American products not otherwise available in Abidjan, including cake mixes, peanut butter, and California wines. The proprietors base their hopes for success on the growing American community (there are currently about 400 American families in Abidjan) and on the general unavailability of U.S. products from other sources. Prices at the new store are high, generally two to three times as much as in U.S. supermarkets, but these prices are comparable to those charged for imported European foods at other Abidjan supermarkets.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The fits and starts accompanying the formation of an inter-African peacekeeping force to take the place of the Libyan troops withdrawing from Chad occupied much of the bureau's coverage attention during November. The first report of the Libyan decision to withdraw was filed from AFP French on the 3d, and AFP was the bureau's only source of material on the withdrawal from Ndjamena itself. Presidents Mobutu and Shagari of Zaire and Nigeria played leading roles in forming a peacekeeping force under OAU auspices. Mobutu acted first, with Kinshasa radio reporting on the 5th his statement that Zairian troops would take part and following up on the 9th with a report that these troops were already in Chad. Subsequently, however, the radio admitted on the 15th that the troops were ready to go but had not left earlier because of "diplomatic misunderstandings". Most area media covered the unfolding developments extensively. By the end of the month troops from Zaire and Senegal had arrived in Chad, but problems concerning other contingents had not been resolved.

2. Nigerian President Shagari told a regional conference of the Pan-African News Agency that his country had established direct communications links with Ivory Coast and Senegal and plans were underway for a satellite link with Nairobi for use by PANA. He urged members to fix a firm date for the service to begin. The PANA director general, at the same conference, said that a legal framework had been prepared for the service and that 24 countries

had paid their financial contributions. The service is expected to begin operations in 1982.

B. Lateral Services

The bureau received three requests for additional services from embassies during the month. On the 20th the embassy in Upper Volta asked to receive all processed material from Ouagadougou radio. On the 25th the bureau received a call from DCM Friedman's office relaying an urgent message from the embassy in Dakar asking the bureau to refile at immediate precedence a Luanda Domestic Service in English report that during Angolan President Dos Santos' visit to Senegal the two countries agreed to establish diplomatic relations. Dakar radio broadcasts monitored by the bureau have not mentioned this development. Over a period of several weeks the bureau recorded for the embassy political officer special programs on Abidjan television devoted to meetings of the Ivory Coast National Council.

III. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

Teletype Operator [] returned to duty on 2 November, following STAT maternity leave.

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Chief, Abidjan Bureau

Attachments

1. Engineering Report
2. Monthly Production Report

ENGINEERING REPORT-NOVEMBER 1981

On several occasions the emergency generator failed to start. This resulted from the battery not being fully charged after having started the generator just a short time before. We replaced the old battery, which had a bad cell, with a new unit with a higher ampere/hour rating. A preventive maintenance procedure was then instituted, whereby the specific gravity of all cells would be checked at least weekly and the charge rate set accordingly. We had to acquire a hydrometer locally to accomplish this.

Due to equipment needs, and expanded coverage, the Watkins-Johnson receivers, were removed from the cruising room to be used by monitors in the main reception area. The cruising room was not being used because we don't have a cruiser, and when cruising is done, it is by either of two people from their own monitoring positions.

The bureau continues to have air-conditioning problems. Since GSO has said it cannot fix our units in the bureau, we contacted the landlord. He agreed to send repairmen out who could fix them. The repairmen came, brought a new compressor for one unit, disconnected several others, and have since failed to return and finish the job. The bureau chief and embassy personnel are presently having talks with the landlord in order to have the job completed.

We are anticipating taking delivery of the new car any day now, but there have been many delays in getting it released from customs and delivered to the dealer. Until we take delivery I am maintaining the station wagon at a minimal level, only taking care of items affecting safety and basic operation.

We experienced our first outage due to a problem with the Farinon microwave system. It turned out to be very minor. The jackfield had a slight amount of oxide which opened our demod line. The outage was brief since we went to our back-up phone line.

[Redacted Signature]

STAT

Bureau Engineer

CC:

[Redacted]
London Bureau

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